

I CLAIM:

1. A method of playing a poker based wagering game comprising:
 - 5 said player receiving five or more random cards;
 - 5 said player selecting to hold one or more of the five or more random cards;
 - 10 if said one or more hold cards is common to a royal flush, providing the player an opportunity to place a wager;
 - 10 if said player elects to place the wager, replacing one or more of the non-hold cards with cards needed for partial completion of the royal flush such that the player has a higher probability of successfully drawing the royal flush after placing the wager than before placing the wager;
 - 15 randomly replacing each of the player's cards not common to the royal flush; and awarding said player a payout if a player's final poker hand is the royal flush.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein if the player places the wager, the non-hold cards are replaced in such a number that the player holds a poker hand having four of the five cards necessary to complete the royal flush.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1 wherein if the player places the wager and the player's final hand is not a royal flush, the player continues to be eligible for an award based on the poker ranking of the player's final hand.
- 25 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the player receives an award if the poker ranking of the player's final hand is a pair of jacks or better.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein preestablished odds are related to the number of player selected hold cards common to the royal flush.
- 30 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the player initially receives five random cards.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein preestablished odds range from 40 to 1 to 50 to 1 on the wager.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the player initially receives seven cards.

5

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the method is facilitated by an electronic gaming machine.

10. A method of playing a poker based wagering game comprising:

10 said player receiving five random cards;

 said player selecting to hold one or more of the five random cards;

 if said one or more hold cards is common to a royal flush, providing the player an opportunity to place a wager;

15 if said player elects to place the wager, replacing one, two or three non-hold cards to form a poker hand having four of the five cards necessary to complete the royal flush;

 randomly replacing the player's one card not common to the royal flush; and
 awarding said player a payout if the player completes the royal flush.

20 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the player is awarded a payout if the player's final hand is of a minimum preestablished poker ranking less than the royal flush.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the minimum preestablished poker ranking is a pair of jacks or better.

25

13. The method of claim 10 wherein preestablished odds are in the range of 40 to 1 to 50 to 1 on the wager.

30

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the method is facilitated by an electronic gaming machine.

15. A gaming machine comprising:

a processor in communication with a random number generator and display; one or more player interfaces;

said random number for generating a display of five or more random cards;

5 said one or more player interfaces for allowing a player to hold one or more of the five or more displayed random cards such that if said hold one or more cards is common to a royal flush, said processor for providing the player an opportunity to place a wager;

10 if said player elects to place the wager, said processor further for replacing one or more of the non-hold cards with cards needed for partial completion of the royal flush such that the player has a higher probability of successfully drawing the royal flush after placing the wager than before placing the wager;

15 said random number generator further for causing replacement of each of the player's cards not common to the royal flush; and

15 said processor further for awarding said player a payout if a player's final poker hand is the royal flush.

20 16. The gaming machine of claim 15 wherein said processor further for awarding a payout if the player's final hand is of a minimum preestablished poker ranking less than the royal flush.

17. The gaming machine of claim 16 wherein the minimum preestablished poker ranking is a pair of jacks or better.

25 18. The gaming machine of claim 15 wherein preestablished odds are in the range of 40 to 1 to 50 to 1 on the wager.